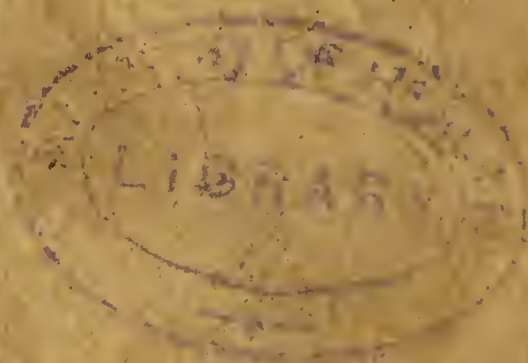


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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SKIPTON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1953

BY

M. Hunter, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.

The Rural District Council of Skipton.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

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M. HUNTER, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.



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Divisional Health Office,
19a, High Street,
Skipton.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the report for the year 1953., and including as an appendix a report on the Local Health Authority's services in the West Riding County Council's No.1. Health Division which covers the urban districts of Silsden, Skipton, Earby and Barnoldswick, and the Skipton Rural District.

The sections of the report dealing with housing, factories, environmental hygiene and the supervision of food have been compiled by the Chief Sanitary Inspector to whom my thanks are due, not only for this, but for his close co-operation and valued assistance throughout the year.

Viewed from the statistical angle it may be regarded as a satisfactory year in some respects, less so in others. "Health is a condition of complete physical, mental and social well being, and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity". Such is the accepted definition of the charter of the World Health Organisation, and we are obviously very far from its attainment. No fewer than 908,000 people were drawing insurance for sickness absence on an average day in 1950. This figure does not include absences from industrial accidents, prescribed industrial diseases, nor all the trivial but common absences lasting four days or less. Even so it represents 1 in every 25, or 4% of the insured population. Such a vast toll of ill health, much of it preventable, shows that there are no grounds for complacency: and that although much has been done to improve the health of the people there is much which remains to be done by every authority dealing with this problem, no matter how limited their powers and resources may be.

In concluding this introduction, I should like to place on record my thanks to the Chairman and Members, the Clerk and other officials, and the staff of the department for their kindness and courteous assistance at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

M. Hunter.

Medical Officer of Health.

Area of the Rural District (acres)...	146,087
Estimated population	24,130
Population at 1951 Census	23,715
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)	8,162
Rateable Value for General Rate	£142,963.0.0d.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£560.0.0d.

BIRTHS.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live, Legitimate...	320	169	151
Illegitimate	12	6	6
Total:	332	175	157
Still, Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total:	2	1	1
Total Births:	334	176	158

BIRTH RATES.

Live Births (Per 1,000 estimated population)	13.75.
Still Births (Per 1,000 live and still births)	5.98

DEATH RATES.

(crude)

(Per 1,000 estimated population).

All causes	10.07
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	—
Respiratory diseases	.87
Cancer	1.49
Heart and Circulatory diseases	4.18

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All infants (Per 1,000 live births)	18.
-------------------------------------	-----

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal
Mortality and Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases
in the year 1953.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	<u>England and Wales.</u>	<u>C.B.'s and great towns incl. London.</u>	<u>Smaller towns (resident pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census.</u>	<u>London Admin. County.</u>	<u>Skipton Rural District.</u>
<u>BIRTHS:</u>					
Live Births	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	13.75
Still Births	(0.35 22.4(a)	0.43 24.8(a)	0.34 21.4(a)	0.38 21.0(a)	0.08 5.98(a)
<u>DEATHS:</u>					
All causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	10.07
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
Whooping cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	-
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	-
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (incl. Polio- encephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	-
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.16
<u>NOTIFICATIONS:</u> (corrected)					
Typhoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	-
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	-
Scarlet Fever	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	0.99
Whooping cough	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	2.40
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	-
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
Measles	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	10.36
Pneumonia	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	1.82
Acute Poliomyelitis (incl. Polio- encephalitis)					
Paralytic:	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.04
Non-paralytic:	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	-
Food Poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	28.61(a)	5.98(a)

continued

England
and
Wales

C.B.'s
and
great
towns
incl.
London.

Smaller
towns(resident
pop.25,000 -
50,000 at
1951 Census).

London
Admin.
County.

Skipton
Rural
District.

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

DEATHS:

All causes under
1 year of age.

26.8(b)

30.8

24.3

24.8

18.07

Enteritis and
Diarrhoea under
2 years of age.

1.1

1.3

0.9

1.1

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

England
and
Wales.

Skipton
Rural
District.

Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and
the puerperium
(Abortion with toxæmia
(Other toxæmias of pregnancy and
the puerperium
Haemorrhage of pregnancy and
childbirth
Abortion without mention of sepsis
or toxæmia
Abortion with sepsis
Other complications of pregnancy,
childbirth and the puerperium

0.01

0.01

0.24

0.13

0.04

0.06

0.18

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

DEATHS:
CAUSES OF DEATH.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis Respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Other	-	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	6	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	4	21
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	27	43
Coronary diseases, angina	23	10	33
Hypertension with heart disease	4	2	6
Other heart diseases	17	26	43
Other circulatory diseases	8	11	19
Influenza	3	-	3
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis	5	6	11
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	3	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	7	18
Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
All other accidents	3	1	4
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of War	-	-	-
ALL CAUSES:	124	118	242

COMMENTARY ON VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The birth rate of 13.7 shows little change from the rates of 12.8., 13.9., 14.8 and 14.9 of the four preceding years. The rates for England and Wales over the same period were 15.5., 15.3., 15.5., 16.7 and 17.9.

DEATHS.

The crude death rate at 10.07 was lower than in preceding years, due to the fact that all deaths in Raikeswood Hospital are now attributed to the Skipton Urban District. This is based on recent instruction from the Registrar General, and depends on the classification of hospitals in respect of average length of stay.

The rates for the Administrative County and for England and Wales were 11.6 and 11.4 respectively.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This is the death rate of children under one year per thousand births. A rate of 18.0 compares favourably with rates of 17.9., 37 and 17 in preceding years, and with the County and national rates of 29.2 and 26.8 in 1953. The still birth rate per thousand live and still births was 5.9 compared with a rate of 22.4 for England and Wales as a whole.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

This is the third year in succession without deaths attributable to pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium.

SECTION B.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. GENERAL.

The home nursing, midwifery, health visiting, ambulance, home help and mental health services are provided by the County Council and dealt with in the Appendix. Reference will also be found there to staffing and clinic arrangements, vaccination and immunisation, the prevention of illness and the school health service.

2. LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Medical Research Council's laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford are available for the examination of water, milk, ice-cream and a variety of pathological specimens. They provide an excellent service, and the advice and assistance of the directors is greatly appreciated.

3. BLIND PERSONS.

There are 31 blind persons registered in the district. Supervision is given by the Blind Persons Teacher employed by the County Council, and specialist examinations are carried out periodically by an Ophthalmologist.

It should be appreciated that the steady increase in the proportion of old people in the population is naturally increasing the incidence of blindness, which is so largely an affliction of the elderly. Much of this blindness is due to cataract and glaucoma, and could be prevented in a considerable proportion of cases by earlier diagnosis and treatment.

4. WATER SUPPLIES.

I am indebted to Mr. Yeadon, the Engineer and Surveyor for the following information:-

SCHEDULE "A".

Information re quality and quantity of water supplied from the Council's own undertakings in the year 1st January, 1953 to 31st December, 1953.

<u>Township.</u>	<u>Quality of Water.</u>	<u>Quantity of Water.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Appletreewick	Good organic quality, but some discolouration of the water has resulted from scraping of the mains.	Sufficient.	pH. value of water raised since installation of limestone filter.
Beansley	Doubtful quality.	Insufficient.	Only five houses on Council's supply at present. New main laid to take water from Chatsworth Estates supply; the bulk supply is to be available in March, 1954.
Bradleys Both	Satisfactory.	Sufficient.	
Buckden	Satisfactory after chlorination.	Sufficient.	
Calton	variable quality.	Sufficient.	

Water Supplies - continued

<u>Township.</u>	<u>Quality of Water.</u>	<u>Quantity of Water.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Coniston Cold.	Satisfactory after chlorination.	Insufficient.	Scheme prepared to pump water from Gargrave.
Conistone-w- Kilnsey.	Doubtful quality.	Sufficient.	Only two houses in Kilnsey supplied.
Cononley.	Satisfactory.	Sufficient.	
Draughton.	Satisfactory.	Sufficient.	Bulk supply from Skipton U.D.C.
Embsay-w- Eastby.	Satisfactory.	Sufficient.	Bulk supply from Skipton U.D.C.
Gargrave.	Satisfactory after chlorination.	Sufficient. Not sufficient storage.	Supply augmented during dry periods by pumping from Pound Well.
Glusburn.	Generally satisfactory.	Insufficient.	New main laid to link Glusburn with Cowling. Supply turned on in periods of drought. Frequent complaints have arisen due to chlorinous tastes.
Grassington.	Generally satisfactory after chlorinat- ion.	Insufficient.	Chlorinator installed on Gravity Supply 19th March, 1953. Brow Well supply used in periods of drought.
Hartlington.	Satisfactory.	Sufficient.	
Hebden.	Satisfactory.	Insufficient storage capacity.	
Hetton.	Satisfactory.	Insufficient storage capacity.	
Kettlewell-w- Starbotten.	Satisfactory.	Sufficient.	Several high level houses in Starbotten have only poor pressure.

Water Supplies - continued

<u>Township.</u>	<u>Quality of water.</u>	<u>Quantity of water.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Linton.	Satisfactory.	Sufficient.	Supply augmented from Threshfield.
Rylstone.	"	Insufficient storage capacity.	
Steeton-w- Eastburn.	Generally satisfactory.	Sufficient.	
Sutton.	Generally satisfactory after chlorination.	Generally sufficient.	Supply augmented from Keighley Borough when required.
Thornton.	Satisfactory.	Sufficient.	

SCHEDULE "B".

Bacteriological Examinations and Chemical Analyses of Water samples taken in the year 1st January, 1953 to 31st December, 1953.

<u>Township.</u>	<u>No. of samples of raw water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>No. of samples of treated water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>Chemical Samples.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Appletree-wick.	Nil.	-	Nil.	-	8	Good Organic Quality.
Bradleys Both.	(Gravity Supply 5 5 Class 1 (Borehole Supply 3 3 Class 1		-	-	-	
Buckden.	3	(2 Class 4 (1 Class 3	3	(1 Class 1 (2 Class 3	-	
Calton.	1	Class 4	-	-	-	
Coniston Cold.	2	2 Class 4	2	2 Class 1	-	

continued -

<u>Township.</u>	<u>No. of samples of raw water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>No. of samples of treat- ed water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>Chemical Samples.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Conistone-w- Kilnsey.	1	Class 4	-	-	-	-
Cononley.	(Gravity (Supply 3 (Borehole (Supply 3	3 Class 1 (2 Class 1 (1 Class 2	-	-	3 2	Good Organic Quality. Satisfactory Organic Quality.
Draughton.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Embsay-w- Eastby.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gargrave.	(Gravity (Supply 1 (Pound (Well 1	Class 1 Class 1 Class 2	2 1	2 Class 1 Class 1	-	-
Glusburn	(High 4 (Level (Reser- (voir (Low 4 (Level (Reser- (voir (Middle 4 (Reser- voir (Borehole 4	(2 Class 1 (2 Class 3 (2 Class 1 (1 Class 3 (1 Class 4 (2 Class 1 (2 Class 4 (4 Class 1	-	-	-	-
Grassing- ton	(Gravity 7 (Supply ((Brow Well (Supply 5	(2 Class 1 (2 Class 2 (3 Class 4 (1 Class 1 (1 Class 3 (3 Class 4	7 6	(5 Class 1 (1 Class 3 (1 Class 4 (4 Class 1 (1 Class 2 (1 Class 4	-	-
Hartlington	2	2 Class 1	-	-	-	-

continued -

<u>Township.</u>	<u>No. of samples of raw water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>No. of samples of treat- ed water.</u>	<u>Results.</u>	<u>Chemical Samples.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Hebden	6	(4 Class 1 (1 Class 3 (1 Class 4	-	-	-	
Hetton	2	2 Class 1	-	-	-	
Kettlewell	1	1 Class 2	-	-	-	
Starbotten	1	1 Class 1	-	-	-	
Linton	1	1 Class 1	-	-	-	
Steeton-w- Eastburn	6	(2 Class 1 (1 Class 2 (2 Class 3 (1 Class 4	-	-	-	
Sutton	(Gravity (Supply 3 (Sutton (Mill 3	(1 Class 2 (2 Class 3 (2 Class 1 (1 Class 3	4	(1 Class 1 (2 Class 3 (1 Class 4		
Thornton	1	1 Class 1	-	-	1	Acid in reaction.
Threshfield (Linton Supply)	1	1 Class 1	-	-	1	Good Organic Quality. Rather Acid.

SCHEDULE "C".

Water liable to have plunbo-solvent action and action taken.

Thornton-in-Craven. One chemical analysis made of a sample of water collected at Rectory Farm - pH. 5.2.

SCHEDULE "D".

Action taken during year to supplies liable to contamination.

<u>Source.</u>	<u>Precaution.</u>
Buckden.	All water chlorinated.
Coniston Cold.	All water chlorinated.
Gargrave.	Gravity and Pound chlorinated.
Glusburn.	Low level supply chlorinated; extra precautions taken when borehole supply is in use. Reservoirs treated with copper sulphate to eliminate growth of algae.
Grassington.	Chlorinator installed on gravity supply March 19th. Brow Well chlorinated when in use.
Sutton.	Gravity supply chlorinated.

SCHEDULE "E".

Properties supplied with water direct to houses by Skipton Rural District Council.

<u>Township.</u>	<u>No. of Premises.</u>	<u>Estimated Population.</u>
Appletreewick	34	90
Beansley	5	12
Bradleys Both	172	470
Buckden	35	68
Calton	10	30
Coniston Cold	42	133
Conistone-w-Kilnsey	19	70
Cononley	239	810
Draughton	28	84
Embsay-w-Eastby	357	1,145
Gargrave	481	1,045
Glusburn	851	2,312
Grassington	370	1,061
Hartlington	14	60
Hebden	82	237
Hetton	32	90
Kettlewell-w-Starbotten	103	307
Linton	48	373 (includes Linton Camp)
Rylstone	10	24
Steeton-w-Eastburn	870	2,347
Sutton	827	2,253
Thornton	80	250
	<u>4,709</u>	<u>13,271</u>

SCHEDULE "F".

5. Sewerage.

Parish.

Buckden.	Scheme prepared and submitted to Ministry. Approval not yet granted.
Starbotten.	Scheme prepared and submitted to Ministry. Approval not yet granted.
Grassington.	Scheme for extension of sewer to serve Wood Lane Area prepared and submitted to Ministry. Approval not yet granted.
Gargrave.	Scheme for extension of sewer to serve Smallholdings prepared and submitted to Ministry. Approval not yet granted.
Sutton.	Scheme for extension of sewer to serve eight houses at Sutton Fields prepared and about to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

6. HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Maternity accommodation is available at the Cawder Ghyll, St. John's (Keighley), St. Winifred's (Ilkley) and Skipton General Hospitals. They have provided accommodation for every case in the priority classes and, so far as it is known, every other applicant.

The St. John's (Keighley) and Raikeswood Hospitals provide sufficient accommodation for the long term sick in the area, but as the turn-over of beds is necessarily slow, difficulties arise from time to time when accommodation is required for an urgent case of this type. It is hoped that these difficulties will eventually be overcome by the establishment of a geriatric service, and a bed bureau, along with an improved integration of the hospital services.

Occasionally the local health authority's services are used in facilitating the admission and discharge of patients, but not to anything like the extent to which they are used so successfully in many other places.

Of the general hospitals, Skipton provides 64 beds, and the Keighley Victoria 144. The former has had no resident doctor during the year, and the staffing arrangements are such as to militate against its development as the hospital centre for the Craven District.

There has been no difficulty in securing beds for cases of infectious diseases at the Morton Banks (Keighley), Seacroft (Leeds) and Leeds Road (Bradford) Hospitals.

7. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951.

These Acts provide for the removal to hospital or other suitable place of persons suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm or physically handicapped are living in insanitary conditions, being unable to devote to themselves and not receiving from other persons proper care and attention.

Prior to 1948 the Relieving Officer supervised, and when necessary removed such persons. This Officer has now been abolished, a step of doubtful wisdom in an ageing population where the younger members are sometimes only too anxious to transfer their responsibilities to the State.

It was not necessary to take action under these Acts during the year, it being possible to deal with such cases as came to notice by other methods.

8. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The measurement of atmospheric pollution is undertaken by the County Council in co-operation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and three types of instrument are located in Skipton. The deposit gauge measures the amount of deposited matter polluting the atmosphere, the lead peroxide instrument the amount of sulphur (SO_3) pollution, and the smoke filter the amount of suspended impurity.

The results of analyses with these instruments are shown in the following table.

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Rainfall</u> <u>in m.m.</u>	<u>Total Solids</u> <u>deposited in</u> <u>tons per sq.</u> <u>mile.</u>	<u>Sulphur</u> <u>in mgms. (SO_3)</u> <u>per 100 sq.</u> <u>cns. per day.</u>	<u>Average daily</u> <u>suspended impurity</u> <u>in mgms. per cubic</u> <u>metre.</u>
January	33	15.50	0.67	33.2
February	63	11.02	0.93	27.5
March	50	16.51	1.09	39.4
April	73	16.17	0.58	26.3
May	26	14.59	0.30	23.1
June	63	10.07	0.20	15.7
July	71	22.74	0.41	21.0
August	144	26.92	0.46	21.0
September	102	20.69	0.52	26.3
October	95	14.08	0.91	No figures available.
November	79	23.82	0.72	50.5
December	52	12.57	1.08	30.1

Atmospheric Pollution continued.

When comparing these figures with the results from other areas it should be remembered that at present the major pollution arises from the domestic chimney, with the traditional open fire and wasteful grate in which the full thermal value of the fuel is never obtained.

Most people have grown up with these conditions, and their associated economic loss, and it is only isolated incidents, like the London smoke fog or "smog" in December, 1952 responsible for 4,000 deaths, which remind them of the dangers.

Smoke associated with fog undoubtedly has a serious effect on the elderly and chronic bronchitic, and it has recently been shown that death rates from bronchitis in middle aged men are highest in industrial areas where the atmosphere is heavily polluted. This state of affairs should no longer be accepted when the creation of smokeless zones in Manchester, Coventry and elsewhere have shown what can be done to improve it.

9. CREMATION.

The Skipton Urban District Council's crematorium was opened on 30th May, 1952., and between that date and the end of 1953 over eleven hundred cremations have taken place. The demand for this simple, complete, hygienic and reverent method of disposal of the dead is increasing year by year. It is also an economic method, for half a million people die in Great Britain each year, and to bury them requires on an average 500 acres of land.

The Medical Officer of Health is the medical referee to the Crematorium assisted by a deputy as required.

10. FOOD HYGIENE.

Although no outbreak of food poisoning was reported in the district during the year, and despite all that has been said and written about this subject and the methods of prevention in recent times, there is no evidence that over the whole country food poisoning is diminishing. The following figures provided in response to a Parliamentary question, give the number of outbreaks in England and Wales during the first nine months of 1953:-

<u>Casual Organism.</u>	<u>Outbreaks.</u>	<u>Persons Affected.</u>
Salmonella group	117	2,302
Staphylococci group	61	2,118
Cl. Welchii	11	461
Miscellaneous	14	134
Unknown	97	951
	<u>300</u>	<u>5,966</u>

Food Hygiene - continued

<u>Type of Food.</u>	<u>Outbreaks.</u>	<u>Persons affected.</u>
Meat and meat products	109	2,605
Fish and fish products	12	75
Duck eggs	12	15
Milk and milk products	20	1,775
Miscellaneous	15	58
Vehicle of infection not established.	132	1,438
	<u>300</u>	<u>5,966</u>

These figures are notifications to medical officers of health only, and there is no doubt that many more cases occurred.

It is clear that health authorities, caterers and most of all food handlers must increase their efforts to ensure that all food stuffs are handled hygienically and prepared and stored in such a way that they are fit to eat. In the long run, however, the success of plans to make dirty food a thing of the past will depend on the public. The education of food manufacturers and handlers will be slow so long as the public remain apathetic about the purity and cleanliness of the food they buy in shops, canteens, cafes or restaurants, and now that food is available in greater quantities and varieties, it is most necessary for the purchaser to complain immediately he detects the vendor indulging in any sort of unhygienic practice.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1. DIPHTHERIA.

Another year has passed without a case of diphtheria in the district. There was a further fall in diphtheria cases notified in England and Wales in 1952., but for the first year since the national immunisation campaign got well under way in 1942 there was no appreciable decline in the number of deaths. In fact, the case fatality rate was the highest since 1919.

The increasing rarity of this disease may be leading to a dangerous delay in treatment, i.e., the administration of anti-toxin, and emphasises the prime importance of mitigating the often tragic effect of this disease by the proved means of immunisation. Furthermore, there is a possibility that the prevailing type of diphtheria organism may be undergoing some change.

2. SCARLET FEVER.

24 notifications were received compared with 20 and 24 in the two preceding years, the majority of cases occurring sporadically throughout the district. This infection is a diminishing hazard to the child population as almost all cases are now of a very mild type.

3. WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease was again less prevalent, there being 58 cases compared with 64, 182 and 141 in the three preceding years. A vaccine for immunizing young children against this disease is now available to all doctors, and it is hoped that the incidence of what is often a distressing, and always a serious disease in infancy, will be permanently reduced.

4. MEASLES.

Until recently the tendency for measles to occur in biennial outbreaks was well recognised. It is now less obvious, and 250 notifications were received compared with 232 in 1952. The size of the rural district may be a factor in limiting the spread of infection in any particular year.

5. SMALLPOX.

Although there were no cases in the district the outbreak on the Lancashire-Yorkshire border centred on Todmorden and spreading eastwards to Leeds, caused considerable alarm. 39 cases were recognised there: 7 died, and as at least two of these were not diagnosed before death others may have occurred. It is certain that modified unrecognised cases were responsible for spreading the infection in some instances.

Little more than two years ago 29 cases of virulent smallpox occurred in Brighton with 10 deaths, and 135 cases of variola minor were reported in East Lancashire in 1952. With increased facilities for airborne travel, Oriental smallpox is an ever present menace, but it would cease to be if all children were vaccinated in infancy and again during school life.. These procedures are practically trouble free, but the public remains apathetic until smallpox appears and causes panic.

6. TUBERCULOSIS.

This disease is, and will remain for some time a serious public health problem. Despite the measures which are now available for its control, which include streptomycin and other new drugs, mass miniature radiography, tuberculin testing, B.C.G. vaccination, the provision of additional hospital beds, and the elimination of tuberculosis germs from milk - the notification rate shows little change. Fewer people are dying from the disease each year, thanks to earlier diagnosis and more effective methods of treatment, but the number of notifications is not decreasing, and shows what a large reservoir of actual or potential infection remains in the community.

Tuberculosis continued

The routine methods of preventive medicine are those which can deal with it. The isolation of sputum positive cases; education of the patient how to avoid being a danger to others; tracing, examination and supervision of contacts; and the encouragement of social, familial and working conditions inimicable to the spread of infection. Such is the aim in dealing with known cases, often difficult in application, but obviously impossible in cases which are not notified. At present one death from tuberculosis in every six occurs in persons not notified before death. Raw, undesignated milk is still a considerable reservoir of infection. Random sampling within the Division during the year revealed 7 samples of milk containing tubercle bacilli, and despite progress under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme less than 40% of cattle in Great Britain belonged to "attested" herds, and were free from tuberculosis at the end of 1952.

In so far as the rural district is concerned 22 cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, compared with 24, 25 and 15 in the three preceding years. 27 patients were admitted to tuberculosis hospitals, and 21 discharged. 121 cases remained on the register at the end of the year.

B.C.G. VACCINE.

This has been offered by the Chest Physician in all suitable cases. It is a form of inoculation similar in principle to smallpox vaccination, and produces in the human body an artificially acquired resistance to the disease. As it has only been in use in this country for a comparatively short time, it is uncertain whether it offers complete protection, but there is little doubt that it reduces the risk of contracting tuberculosis.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The aim of the service is the detection of early and symptomless cases of tuberculosis, and over fifty Units are operating in England and Wales. On an average about 3.5 cases per thousand examined are found to have active tuberculosis.

A Unit of the Leeds Regional Hospital Board operated in the Division during the year, but it is difficult for administrative reasons to give figures on a strictly local basis, so the findings are given as received. They apply to persons attending entirely of their own volition.

Although there is hesitancy in drawing conclusions from such a small survey the findings in respect of active cases again compare very favourably with both regional and national figures.

<u>Examinations carried out.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
(a) Miniature X-rays taken.	2,399.	1,461
(b) Large X-rays taken.	103	44

Analysis of provisional findings.

(a) Cases of probable active tuberculosis.	1	2
(b) Cases of inactive tuberculosis.	44	20
(c) Other abnormalities.	43	18
(d) Failed to re-attend for large films.	3	1

7. PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Two notifications were received. The definition of this disease has recently been amended, and now includes some cases which would previously have escaped notification.

8. VENEREAL DISEASES.

Notification of these diseases is not made to the Medical Officer of Health but the County Venereologist has been able to provide certain figures. During the year there were 11 cases attending special treatment centres, but only in 2 was the diagnosis confirmed. Other cases may have been treated by general practitioners without reference to the special centres.

Facilities for diagnosis are available at the Keighley, Leeds and Bradford hospitals, and certain medical practitioners in the district provide a modified service. The County Council employ a social worker to follow up cases and contacts when required.

In the "Report of the Ministry of Health" for 1952 it is stated that although there was a substantial fall in the number of new cases of syphilis and of congenital syphilis during that year, the post-War fall in the incidence of gonorrhoea has stopped, and that of non-gonococcal urethritis has increased. It is a position which, despite advances in treatment, gives rise to concern from both medical and social points of view.

9. POLIOMYELITIS.

One notification was received compared with four (one of which was fatal) in the preceding year.

Polioomyelitis - continued

This case followed accidental injury to the mouth and tonsil, and was considered of sufficient interest to merit publication of details in "The Lancet".

10. OTHER DISEASES.

44 cases of pneumonia, and 2 of erysipelas were notified, but with modern treatment these are rarely dangerous diseases. No cases of food poisoning, only two of dysentery were reported: and although cases of what is described as "epidemic winter vomiting" occurred, this disease is not notifiable at present.

NOTIFICATIONS OF, AND DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease Notified	0 to 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 and over	Age un-known	Total cases notified	Cases adm. to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	-	1	4	15	3	1	-	-	24	8	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Polio-myelitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Measles	3	50	58	117	14	5	3	-	250	-	-
Whooping cough	1	15	24	16	1	-	1	-	58	-	-

Disease	0 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Age un-known	Total cases notified	Cases adm. to hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1
Typhoid	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1
Paratyphoid	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	2	1	1	1	7	2	1
Pneumonia	6	7	10	13	8	1	44	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	2	1	7	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1
Dysentery	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1953.

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT.

Chief Sanitary Inspector etc.	A.W. Craven, M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C. Certificate of R.S.I. & San. Insp. Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector, Cert. of R.S.I. for Meat and Food, Cert. of R.S.I. for Smoke Inspection. Testanur of Institute of Public Cleansing.
Sanitary Inspectors.	G.E. Haigh, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Cert. of R.S.I. & San. Insp. Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector. Cert. of R.S.I. for Meat and Food. W.E. Farley, M.S.I.A. Certificate of R.S.I. & San. Insp. Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector. Cert. & Dip. of R.I.P.H. & H. Cert. of R.S.I. for Meat and Food.
Junior Assistant.	A.B. Lee.
General Clerks.	Miss E. Sharples (Senior). Miss C.M. Dewhirst.

Council Offices,
Granville Street,
Skipton.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the following report on the operation of Sanitary Services during the year 1953. There was no outstanding event during the year, and progress in all fields was steady, if somewhat slow.

The statement above is particularly applicable to food hygiene, and although five film shows were held in various parts of the district, and these did create some interest, no spectacular improvement resulted in any particular instance. Whilst no bakehouse or food preparing room could be considered to be sufficiently dirty to warrant enforcement action under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 many were found to be somewhat uncared for and very untidy notwithstanding regular visits and interviews with occupiers. Structural and decorative improvements were obtained in several instances.

The regular collections of household refuse and nightsoil were continued; in almost half of the collection districts bins were emptied weekly. The improvement in collection from fourteen to seven day periods which was commenced just before the start of the year was very well received, and the comments of all ratepayers who did remark on the change were appreciative.

The owners of property within the District were as reluctant as hitherto to embark on schemes of repair and reconditioning for tenanted property. No grants under the Housing Acts, 1949 to 1951 were made and it seems to me that it is time that advantage was taken of the provisions contained in these Acts to bring as many as possible of the older houses to modern standards, and so avoid having to replace them with new Council houses. One Clearance Order, involving six houses, was made during the year, and before the end of December demolition was well under way.

The investigation and improvement of the many private water supplies within the Area occupied a considerable amount of time during the year. Some improvements were effected, and I consider that time spent in this way is well worthwhile.

As one's experience in Public Health work widens it becomes clearer that spectacular improvement in any field is unlikely, and if gradual and steady improvement is being made it is as much as can be expected; such steady improvement can be recorded for 1953. As in former years I should like to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation of the Health Committee, and the Medical Officer of Health and the loyal support of the staff and workmen attached to the Health Department.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

Arthur W. Craven.

Chief Sanitary and Building Inspector.

TABLE 1.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Accumulations and Deposits	12
Ashpits	4
Dustbins	121
Other Nuisances and Visits	232
Closets: Defective	36
Conversion	60
Additional	97
Drains: Defective	154
Blocked	14
New	368
Tested	91
Dampness	37
Dirty and Verminous Houses	25
Foundations	66
Damp Proof Courses	45
New Buildings	622
Completion of Buildings	208
Defective Flues and Fireplaces	26
Defective Floors	5
Factories: with mechanical power	103
Housing: (P.H. Act).	106
(H. Act).	295
(Other Visits).	192
Infectious Diseases: Enquiry	32
Disinfection	11
Keeping of Animals	4
Knackers' Yards	7
Flooding in Cellars	9
Licensing	1
Outworkers	15
Overcrowding	8
Petroleum	60
Rain Conductors	57
Roofs	31
Rodent Control	41
Refuse Collection and Disposal	392
Septic Tanks	24
Shops	27
Schools	5
Smoke: Tined Observations	8
Visits to Boiler Plant	12
Tents, Vans and Sheds	119
Water Supply	137
Bakchouses	95
Butchers' Shops	37
Catering Establishments (Cafes, Hotels etc).	121
Licensed Premises	80
Dairies	3
Fried Fish Shops	38

continued -

Grocers	81
Ice-Cream Premises	6
Other Food Premises	33
Slaughterhouses	9
Stalls	1
Meat Inspection: Slaughterhouses	4
Distribution of Milk	36
Sampling Milk: Bacteriological	381
Sampling Water: Bacteriological	201
Analysis	10
Sampling Ice-Cream: Bacteriological	113
Diseases of Animals Act	3
Unsound Food	9
Food Hygiene (Other Visits)	68

TABLE 2.

SANITARY REPAIRS AND/OR IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT BY INFORMAL ACTION.

Dampness on, or otherwise defective, walls.	14
Dustbins provided (including those supplied by the Council).	188
Defective sanitary accommodation repaired.	19
Leaking roofs repaired.	14
Defective window woodwork repaired.	5
Re-pointing carried out.	4
Leaking or otherwise defective rain conductors renewed or repaired.	9
Defective drainage repaired.	16
Re-decoration of bakehouses, kitchens, other food premises carried out.	3
Nuisance from leaking cesspool abated.	2
Additional ventilation provided.	2
Water supply and washing accommodation provided in food premises.	3
Food protection required and effected.	2
Broken coal place doors repaired	2
Nuisance from nidden stead abated.	1
Defective hearths, fireplaces, flues, chimney pots repaired or renewed.	8
Water supply pipes repaired or renewed.	2
Nuisance from smoky chimneys abated.	1
Defective ceiling and wallplaster repaired.	6
Unsatisfactory floors and skirting boards repaired.	10
Defective cisterns repaired.	1
Nuisance from offensive smell abated.	1
Defective waste pipes repaired or renewed.	5
Defective geyser repaired.	1
Leaking taps repaired.	1
Perished mastic pointing renewed.	5
New sinks installed.	1

TABLE 3.

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Informal</u> <u>Notices.</u>	<u>Complied</u> <u>with.</u>	<u>Statutory</u> <u>Notices.</u>	<u>Complied</u> <u>with.</u>	<u>Under-</u> <u>takings</u> <u>accepted.</u>	<u>Closing</u> <u>Order.</u>
Addingham	11	3			5	
Appletreewick	1					
Banknewton	1	2				
Bolton Abbey	1	1				
Bradleys Both	5	3	1			
Brogden	2	1				
Carleton	10	11	2	2		
Coniston Cold		2				
Cononley	4	5	1			
Cowling	6	8				
Elslack		1	1	1		
Embsay-w-Eastby	9	10	1	1	1	
Eshton	1	1				
Farnhill	5	6				
Flasby-w-						
Winterburn	1	1				
Gargrave	16	14				
Glusburn	15	12	1	1	1	
Grassington	3	1				
Halton East	1					
Hazlewood-w-						
Storiths		1				
Hebden	1					
Kettlewell-w-						
Starbotton	2	3				
Kildwick	1	1				
Linton	1	4	4	4		
Lothersdale	2	3				
Martons Both		3	1	1		
Salterforth	4	5				
Steeton-w-						
Eastburn	12	8				
Stirton-w-						
Thorlby	1	2				
Sutton	21	17				
Thornton	3	5				
Threshfield	7	2				
	147	136	12	10	7	

SANITARY REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT BY FORMAL ACTION UNDER
THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 AND HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Defective drains and disposal tanks remedied.	2
Leaking roofs repaired.	1
Leaking or otherwise defective rain water conductors renewed or repaired.	6
Re-pointing carried out.	2
Broken window cords etc., renewed.	2
Defective door repaired.	1
Perished mastic pointing renewed.	2
Broken ceiling and wall plaster repaired.	3
Defective fireplaces repaired.	2
Defective fireback boiler replaced.	1
Handrail provided.	1
Flagged floors re-laid or repaired.	2
Additional means of ventilation provided	2
New sink provided.	1
Broken chimney pot replaced.	1

Considerably more time and effort than in previous years has been expended in the inspection and repairs to dwelling houses, and in sanitary matters generally. The difficulty of inducing owners to carry out repairs to their property is still present, and will continue so long as rents remain stable and building work continues to be so costly. The effect of this difficulty is that much more effort is required in correspondence, re-inspections and meetings on sites than would otherwise be the case, and in some cases the effort appears to be out of all proportion to the result obtained.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Bill now before Parliament, one of the provisions of which is to allow house owners who bring their property into good general repair, and keep it in that condition to obtain a repairs increase of rent, has aroused interest and speculation. Differences of opinion about the Bill have been voiced from many quarters, but whatever one's opinion may be of the final provisions there is no doubt that owners of property will be reluctant to put the houses which they let into a reasonably habitable condition without financial encouragement. This Bill may provide that encouragement. It appears probable that the Bill will receive approval, and will thus reach the Statute Book. Time alone will tell what its ultimate effect will be on the housing programme of the country. In the meantime the tendency is to put off essential repairs until the Bill becomes law.

continued -

By far the greater proportion of work continues to be done after informal action on the part of your Officers. This is, in my view, exactly as it should be; indeed if formal action were to be taken to enforce all improvements and repairs done by private individuals little more than half could be done, and the time spent by Councillors in Committee might well be doubled.

The table above shows that more formal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts was necessary than in previous years.

TABLE 4.
NEW SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AND ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING CONVENIENCES.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Privy closets to W.Cs.</u>	<u>Pails converted to W.Cs.</u>	<u>W.W.Cs. converted to W.Cs.</u>	<u>Additional W.Cs. provided to old proper- ty.</u>	<u>New Pails.</u>
Addingham			1	5	
Bordley				2	
Bradleys Both		2			
Broughton		3		1	
Carleton			2	1	
Cononley			1	3	
Cowling				1	1
Embsay-w-Eastby			4	2	
Farnhill			2		
Flasby-w-Winterburn	1				
Gargrave	1		3	6	
Glusburn			4+	4	
Grassington				2	
Hebden		1			
Hetton				1	
Lothersdale		1			
Salterforth			1	1	
Steeton-w-Eastburn			5	2	
Sutton			9	8	
Thornton	1	1		1	
	3	8	32	40	1

+ W.W.C. abolished but not converted.

continued -

The general picture portrayed by the above figures is one similar to last year's, the number of privies converted to water closets being the same; the number of pails converted to water closets is slightly more than last year, but the number of conversions of waste water closets and additional W.Cs is somewhat less.

I feel that once again I must bring to the notice of the Council the advantages from a public health viewpoint of the inauguration of a grant scheme to assist owners to convert obsolete conveniences to fresh water closets.

In the case of pail closets the advantage might well be, in the long run, a financial one also as many of these are within Collection Areas, and are cleansed weekly at the Council's expense.

DRAINAGE.

As hitherto all new drains were inspected and tested with the hydraulic test. Where it was possible to do so, 1,616 yards of 4" drain and 40 yards of 6" drain were tested in this way. When the testing of drains was commenced over four years ago, the joints on new drainage were found to be practically without exception very leaky, and very few indeed were passed on the first test, indeed some had to be tested as many as four or five times.

A considerable improvement has now been effected, and most of the drains on first test show no leaks or very minor ones. One result of the testing of drains has been that most builders have purchased drain plugs and actually themselves test drains before notifying me that they are ready for inspection.

HOUSES AND CONVERSIONS TO HOUSES ETC.

	Addingham	Bradley	Carleton	Cononley	Cowling	Enbsay-w- Eastby	Farnhill	Gargrave	Grassington	Kildwick	Linton	Salterforth	Steeton	Sutton	Thornton	TOTAL:
Council Houses	6	8		6	4	10	2		8			6	32	12	4	98
Council Flats	4				4	8							24	8		48
Private Houses	1		1					7	1		1		1		2	14
Two houses converted into one										1						1
No. of W.Cs. in above houses	11	3	1	8	8	18	2	8	9	1	1	10	59	22	4	170
No. of baths in above houses	11	8	1	6	8	18	2	7	9	1	1	6	57	22	4	161
No. with Council water laid on		8		6		18		7	8		1		57	22	4	131
No. with Private Water from Statutory & Private Undertakings	11		1		8		2		1	1		6				30
No. connected to sewer	10	8	1	6	8	18	2	7	9		1	6	57	21	4	158
No. connected to Septic Tanks	1									1						3

I am indebted to your Engineer and Surveyor for statistics in the foregoing table which refer to the construction of houses and flats by the Council.

The number of private houses built shows some reduction on last year, no doubt due mainly to the high cost of building.

TABLE 6.
HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of dwelling houses in the district	8,162
Number of back-to-back houses included in above	315
1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	142
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	593
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations.	105
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	295
(3) Number of dwelling houses needing further action:-	
(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	43
(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	99
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	62
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	

Housing Statistics - continued

- (a) By owners 1
- (b) By Local Authority 1

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 7
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By owners 7
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. -

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for habitation. 7
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. -
- (3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. -

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made -
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit -

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 4
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein... .. 5
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein 28
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1

continued -

(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	2
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	16

NEW HOUSES.

5. Number of new houses provided during the year:-

By the Local Authority:- Permanent type 146

Temporary type -

By Private Enterprise. 14

6. Housing Act, 1949.

Any action in connection with Section 20, "Grants to persons other than local authorities for improvement of housing accommodation" Nil.

After the frustration of the War-time and post-War years it is indeed gratifying to be able to report that during 1953 the small beginnings in the elimination of the badly sub-standard property which is to be found within the District were intensified.

Representations were made in respect of five Clearance Areas in Addingham Parish and reports were presented in respect of nine individual unfit houses in Addingham and other Parishes.

This action by no means represents the whole of Housing Action which is necessary in the Parish concerned, and is merely a start on the matter. Whilst I consider that generally the housing conditions are worse in Addingham than in other parts of the District, nevertheless, much remains to be accomplished.

Following the lead on the subject given by government publications it seems that the next step should be an "action survey" taking each Parish in turn. The basis for a schedule is already in existence in the report on the Rural Housing Survey, and whilst owing to the passage of time and other factors, this report cannot be relied upon exclusively, it would serve as a basis for a three part up-to-date action schedule.

The first part of the schedule should contain those houses which are beyond recall, and should be demolished. The second part those houses which, whilst they are unable to be made fit at reasonable cost, they can be made fit if enough money is spent, and the third part those houses which can be made fit at reasonable expense, and in respect of which notices under Section 9 of the Act could be served.

continued -

Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, as amended by the Housing Act, 1952 could very usefully be employed for the houses listed in category 2 above, and I urge that this section should be operated at an early date.

CIVIL BUILDING LICENSING.

Conditions affecting the issue of building licences were relaxed considerably during the year.

The modifications were that at the beginning of the year the limit under which work could be done without a licence was raised from £100 to £500., and from the 1st June the Council were no longer required to keep the value of licences within the quota, which was 80% of the value of those issued in 1949. This meant that all licence applications could be dealt with as they were received.

Licences for new houses with superficial areas of less than 1,000 sq. ft. were also to be issued upon the receipt of applications, and those for licences to erect houses of from 1,000 to 1,500 sq. ft. after they had been considered on their merits. The issue of licences for houses with a greater floor area than these was to be subject to the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

During the year 8 licences were issued for repairs and improvements, and 2 supplementary licences for the same. 11 licences were issued authorising the erection of 12 houses, and a supplementary licence to allow a house to be completed.

TABLE 7.
CLEANSING REPORT.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>No. of bins collected.</u>	<u>No. of Pails collected.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Addingham	27,906	1,092	
Appletreewick	1,600	610	
Banknewton			No collection.
Barden	115		
Beansley	1,144	442	
Bolton Abbey	962	338	
Bordley			No collection.
Bracewell & Brogden	858		
Bradleys Both	5,304	1,872	
Broughton	624	416	
Buckden		312	
Burnsall	1,847	688	
Calton	375		

continued -

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>No. of bins collected.</u>	<u>No. of pails collected.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Carleton	9,408		
Coniston Cold	1,215		
Conistone-w-Kilnsey	1,862	366	
Cononley	7,410	520	
Cowling	30,570	2,288	
Cracoe, Rylstone & Hetton	2,632	494	
Draughton	800	1,196	
Elslack	754	424	
Embsay-w-Eastby	8,658		
Eshton	725		
Flasby-w-Winterburn	546		
Gargrave	12,916	516	
Glusburn	48,446	364	
Grassington	13,102		
Halton East	625	728	
Hartlington	384		
Hazlewood-w-Storiths	546		
Hebden	3,245	2,397	
Kettlewell-w-Starbotten	234	312	
Kildwick & Farnhill	6,025	728	
Linton	1,720	191	
Lothersdale	3,150	4,830	
Martons Both	2,050	582	
Salterforth	4,316	1,092	
Steeton-w-Eastburn	40,439		
Stirton-w-Thorlby	1,144		
Sutton	52,218	416	
Thornton	2,418	78	
Thorpe	388		
Threshfield	4,660	780	

As hitherto only two very sparsely populated Parishes were entirely without collections of household refuse and nightsoil. Two Parishes only were served by Contractors, and the more populous portions of all other Parishes were served by your own vehicles and workmen.

Collections of household refuse were, in just under half of the District (48% of the population) made each week, and the remainder once in each two weekly period. Pail closets were emptied each week wherever possible.

During the year the wall plaster on the interior of your Cononley Cleansing Depot was repaired and decorated; this is a job which has been in abeyance since the Depot was converted for use. The Factories Act is now complied with, and the Depot should satisfy the Factories Inspector.

continued -

A living hut was transferred from the Surveyor's Department for use on Cononley refuse tip. This hut filled a long felt want, as hitherto the man employed at the tip had no shelter for meals or during wet weather and some time was being wasted in walking to the nearby factory for shelter and meals.

The 10% salvage bonus to workmen was continued throughout the year and, I believe, did fulfill its purpose in acting as an incentive to the men to collect rather more than would otherwise be the case. Now that the local textile mills are working full time and are requiring more labour it is not easy to retain the collection and disposal staff at full strength, and any small perquisite of this sort is a very big help in retaining labour as well as encouraging the collection of salvage.

The market for waste paper picked up gradually during the year, but the prices obtained were not nearly as high as hitherto, and most of the paper had to be sold unsorted as mixed waste with consequent loss of revenue.

TABLE 8.

SALVAGE.

The income from the sale of salvage and services rendered during the calendar year was as under:-

<u>Materials or Service.</u>	£.	s.	d.
Mixed waste paper.	662	6	4
Fibreboard.	46	10	-
Textiles.	22	6	3
Light scrap iron.	49	16	11
Cast iron.	12	8	10
Aluminium.	7	2	2
Collection and Disposal of Trade Refuse.	132	4	2
Miscellaneous.		6	2
	933	-	10

PRIVATELY OWNED WATER SUPPLIES.

A fairly high proportion of the properties throughout the District is still served by privately owned water supplies of sizes varying from the service of a single house to a whole village the size of Cowling.

The sampling and supervision of these private supplies was extended throughout the year to a considerable extent. A grand total of 187 samples was taken and submitted for bacteriological analysis; of these 117 were completely satisfactory.

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples, representations were made to the owners of the various supplies, and in supplies in four Parishes, Bradley, Cracoe, Flasby and Lothersdale, the path of entry of pollution was isolated, and remedial measures were undertaken. In two cases later samples at the completion of the work showed that it had been successful; in the two other cases the work had not been completed at the end of the year.

In all cases where samples of water showed it to be subject to intermittent pollution consumers were advised to boil water pending a more permanent solution to the trouble.

I am convinced that there is no field of public health which requires more attention than that of water supplies, and that supervision will be continued, and if possible extended in the future.

The following table sets out in tabulated form the results obtained in various Parishes:-

TABLE 9.
WATER SAMPLING RESULTS.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Laboratory Report.</u>		
		<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Doubtful.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Addingham	5	5		
Banknewton	1	1		
Barden	5	1		4
Beansley	3	3		
Bolton Abbey	1	1		
Bracewell	1	1		
Bradleys Both	13	11		2
Broughton	1	1		
Buckden	5	2		3
Burnsall	1	1		
Carleton	2	2		
Cononley	4	2		2
Cowling	1	1		
Cracoe	11	9		2
Draughton	24	11	4	9
Elslack	5	5		
Eshton	1		1	
Farnhill	1	1		
Flasby-w-Winterburn	14	5	2	7
Glusburn	1	1		

continued -

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Laboratory Report.</u>		
		<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Doubtful.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Hebden	5	1	1	3
Hetton	1	1		
Kettlewell-w-Starbotten	1	1		
Kildwick	1	1		
Linton	3			3
Lothersdale	54	31	4	20
Martons Both	1	1		
Rylstone	3	3		
Salterforth	2	2		
Steeton-w-Eastburn	2	2		
Thorpe	4	2		2
Threshfield	8	8		
	<u>185</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>57</u>

To check the results obtained by bacteriological analyses six samples of water were taken and submitted to the public analyst for chemical examination; five gave satisfactory results, and one was doubtful.

In addition, four samples were taken at Cononley at the request of the West Riding County Council to check the lead content, and the pH value of the water. Two of these samples were taken after the water had been standing all night in a lead service pipe approximately 210 feet long. The analysis in both cases showed the lead content to be nil. The two other samples were taken after the water had been standing in the pipe for half an hour. Again the analyses showed the lead content to be nil.

One other sample of a sewage effluent at West Marton Dairies was taken and the examination showed the effluent to be unsatisfactory for discharge into a water course.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are two swimming baths within the District which are open to the public, and a third which is used by pupils at the Linton Camp which is used as a camp school. The first two mentioned have "Bell" filters and chlorination plant, and rarely give trouble; thirteen samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, and ten were satisfactory and three unsatisfactory. It was found on investigation of the unsatisfactory samples that the chlorination plant had not been working for a time owing to delay in delivery of chlorine gas in one case, and in another a defect in the plant had developed. In the first instance arrangements were made to have a spare cylinder of gas always on hand, and in the latter one the defect was found and remedied. Samples taken later in both cases were satisfactory.

Swimming Baths - continued

The third bath mentioned above is only used by a limited number of pupils, and consequently is not liable to the same pollution as the first two. It is filled from the public mains at the start of the bathing season, and thereafter emptied and re-filled two or three times during the season. At regular intervals it is chlorinated by hand.

One sample, taken towards the end of the season, gave a poor result, and it is obvious that more attention will have to be given to this bath in the future. An earlier sample had been satisfactory.

TABLE 10.
RAINFALL (in inches).

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Banknewton.</u>	<u>Bolton Abbey.</u>	<u>Winterburn.</u>
January	1.73	.86	1.22
February	1.87	3.03	1.92
March	1.17	1.26	.97
April	2.34	2.69	2.49
May	1.44	1.51	2.20
June	2.75	2.84	3.00
July	5.40	4.58	5.51
August	5.10	3.68	5.93
September	3.51	2.98	3.77
October	1.72	1.93	1.83
November	4.75	3.94	4.73
December	1.91	1.40	2.12
	<u>33.69</u>	<u>30.70</u>	<u>35.69</u>

Average rainfall for the twelve months was ... 33.36 inches.

MILK SUPPLIES.

My remarks under this heading differ little from those in last year's report, the District is still served mainly by producer-retailers, many of whom retail a little milk and sell the remainder wholesale.

Apart from the producer-retailers there were 14 firms registered as distributors of milk, ten firms were issued with licences under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 authorising them to sell Tuberculin Tested or Accredited milk within the District, and one was issued with a supplementary licence to retail Tuberculin Tested milk. Seven Dealers' licences under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949 were issued. In addition, one dairy was registered under the Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 to 1950., and the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Milk Supplies - continued

Sampling.

A slightly smaller number of milk samples than last year's record figure was submitted for methylene blue examination, pasteurised milk for the phosphatase test and sterilised milk for the turbidity test. As hitherto selected samples, particularly those from producer-retailers, not sampled elsewhere, were submitted for biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

The results of methylene blue examinations were, as in former years, forwarded to the Milk Regulations Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and to each retailer concerned.

Of the 192 samples of milk on which biological examinations were carried out, five were found to contain living tubercle bacilli. The milk from these farms was diverted for pasteurisation, and an alternative source found; the particulars were sent to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

It is interesting to speculate what disease and suffering might well have resulted had these infections gone undetected; it is suggested that the elimination of these infections is sufficient to make the whole time and effort spent in milk sampling well worthwhile quite apart from the general check on supplies which sampling makes possible.

As in previous years, several samples were taken from heat treated milks for phosphatase and turbidity test; the former is a test used for checking the effectiveness of pasteurisation, and the latter the sterilisation of milk.

Some empty bottles were capped and submitted for examination for the purpose of checking the effectiveness of washing arrangements, and the detergents used.

TABLE 11.
MILK SAMPLING RESULTS.

	<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>Methylene blue test.</u>		<u>Phosphatase test.</u>		<u>Turbidity test.</u>	
		<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>
Undesignated milk.	220	178	42	-	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested milk.	107	89	18	-	-	-	-
Accredited milk.	26	22	4	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised milk.	14	14	-	14	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested (Past). milk.	8	8	-	8	-	-	-
Sterilised milk.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-

Milk Sampling Results - continued

In addition to an examination by the methylene blue test, the under-mentioned milk samples were submitted to the biological test for the detection of tubercle bacilli.

<u>Designation of Milk.</u>	<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Positive.</u>
Undesignated milk.	166	4
Tuberculin Tested milk.	4	-
Accredited milk.	17	1

Empty bottles were submitted for bacteriological examination as under:-

<u>No. of Bottles.</u>	<u>No. Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Doubtful.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
29	27	2	0

The total number of samples taken and submitted for analysis, including the five groups of milk bottles, was 381.

TABLE 12.
ICE-CREAM SAMPLING.

Registered retailers of ice-cream	78
Registered manufacturers & retailers of ice-cream (included in above figure)	9

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF LABORATORY EXAMINATION.

Total number of samples taken	113
Ice-Cream samples	110
Iced lollies	2
Broken in transit	1

ICE CREAM:

Grade 1.	90
Grade 2.	19
Grade 3.	1
Grade 4.	-

ICED LOLLIES:

Satisfactory	2
---------------------	---

Ice-Cream samples - continued

The number of ice-cream samples taken and submitted for analysis by the methylene blue test was somewhat smaller than last year. During the last few years there has been an improvement each year in the cleanliness of ice-cream and lollies sold to the public.

It is interesting to note that no ice-cream was placed in Provisional Grade 4., one sample only in Grade 3., and by far the largest proportion of samples in Grade 1.

As hitherto retailers were informed in all cases of the results of the analyses, and if found to be below Grade 2 the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the District in which it was produced was informed of the result, and asked to co-operate in effecting an improvement.

Samples of ice-cream and lollies manufactured within the District were all satisfactory.

FOOD PREPARATION.

During the early part of the year a determined effort was made to bring home to food handlers the importance of care in their work and scrupulous cleanliness in their persons and habits.

The publicity undertaken was in the form of five film shows, two in the Parish of Glusburn to serve the southern part of the Area, one in Addingham, one at Gargrave, and one at Grassington. The shows, which were all sound films, included the Central Film Library films, "Fly about the House", "Another Case of Poisoning", "Behind the Menu" and "Mary's Birthday". The Ice-Cream Alliance Ltd.'s film "This Modern Ice Age", the Foundation Film Library's "The Control of Bacteria in Food", and Shell Chemicals Ltd's. "New Detergents".

The films were relatively well attended, and some interest was aroused. Although the ultimate value of such efforts is difficult to assess I believe their use to be limited. Any lesson to be learned from a film is soon forgotten, and to present such educational films too frequently would lead to boredom. A view that I have held for some time is that the instruction in food hygiene given to the apprentices entering any occupation concerned with food handling should be extended.

The section of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 dealing with structure, cleanliness etc., of food preparing premises provides that where an offence is committed a prosecution may be taken. There is no provision for the service of a statutory notice requiring the offence to be remedied, or the contravention to be discontinued. Whether or not such a provision would be useful is questionable although many Acts used by the Department have this provision, and when used have the desired effect.

Food Preparation - continued

Regular inspections were kept up, and in many cases increased. There are no filthy premises within the District, many are very clean, but there are some which could usefully be improved in cleanliness, but more in which method is lacking, and the general impression on entering is chaos.

Too many caterers and confectioners are inclined to blow on wrapping papers to separate them or lick their fingers to pick up one paper only.

Considerably more improvements to premises were carried out during the year, and the details are as set out below, along with a list of the number and type of food premises within the District.

REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS ETC., TO FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

New ceiling provided.	1
Re-decoration carried out.	21
Walls re-plastered.	2
Dirty Floor covering taken up.	1
Improved artificial lighting installed.	1
Ceilings repaired or re-decorated.	4
Glass counters and display cabinets provided.	9
Food otherwise protected.	1
Racks.	1
Floors repaired.	2
Hot water provided.	3
Cold water provided.	1
New sinks.	3
New sanitary accommodation provided.	1
Improvements to sanitary accommodation.	1
Alterations to doors.	1

FOOD SHOPS AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

The total number of food shops etc., within the district is 294., and details as to the type and number of premises are given below:-

General Food Shops.	6
Grocers' Shops.	44
Bakehouses.	1
Butchers' Shops.	29
Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants.	29
Fried Fish Shops.	16
Ice-Cream Premises.	15
Licensed Premises.	36
General Food Shops and Bakehouses.	11

Food Shops and Catering establishments - continued

General Food Shops and Ice-Cream Premises.	17
General Food Shops, Bakehouses and Ice-Cream Premises.	3
General Food Shops, Bakehouses, Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants and Ice-Cream Premises.	1
Grocers' Shops and Bakehouses.	6
Grocers' and Butchers' Shops.	2
Grocers' Shops and Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants.	1
Grocers' and Fried Fish Shops.	1
Grocers' Shops and Ice-Cream Premises.	32
Grocers' Shops, Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants and Ice-Cream Premises.	1
Bakehouses, Butchers' Shops and Ice-Cream Premises.	1
Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants and Ice-Cream Premises.	13
Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants and Licensed Premises.	23
Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants, Ice-Cream and Licensed Premises.	1
General Food Shops, Bakehouses and Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants.	1
Bakehouses and Butchers' Shops.	1
General Food Shops, Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants and Ice-Cream Premises.	2
Grocers' and Butchers' Shops and Ice-Cream Premises.	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The licensing of slaughterhouses for the convenience of the self suppliers of pig meat was continued, and seven were used for this purpose. One slaughterhouse was used for the slaughter of horses for food, and there was one knacker's licence.

In last year's report I commented on the fact that it is not incumbent on any person slaughtering an animal, which is to be used by his own family only, to notify its slaughter, and have the carcase inspected. In my view it is wrong that any person should be able to place food before even his own family which may be diseased or otherwise unfit for food.

The owner of the horse slaughterhouse continued to co-operate in giving due notice of slaughter in each case as required by the Public Health (Meat) Amendment Regulations 1952.

Periodical inspection of food in butchers' and other shops was continued at a similar level to previous years, and the under-mentioned food was found to be unfit for human consumption.

It was not necessary to seize any article of food, and all were voluntarily surrendered by owners.

Meat and other foods - continued

By far the greater proportion of the food found to be unfit was taken to a large pig farm within the District. At this farm the boiling of pig food is going on all the time, and it is possible accordingly to see any food put into the pan before it is left so that there can be no question of its being used for human food. Only a very small proportion of unsound food was buried on refuse tips because it was too offensive to be used for animal feeding.

TABLE 13.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

<u>Food.</u>	<u>Weight.</u> <u>lbs. ozs.</u>		<u>Condition.</u>
Jellied veal.	6	0	Blown cans: decomposition.
Cooked ham.	14	0	Decomposition.
Canned ox tongues.	56	12½	"
Lunch tongue.	1	8	"
Canned pears in syrup.	14	10	Blown or damaged containers: decomposition of contents.
Canned peaches in syrup.	13	5	Blown or damaged containers: fermentation.
Pork gelatine.	3	0	Blown can: decomposition.
Canned fruit in syrup.	3	15	Blown and damaged containers.
Canned pig tongues.	6	0	Blown containers.
Canned peas.	18	12	" " decomposition.
Canned plums in syrup.	18	7	" " "
Canned tomatoes.	3	0	" " "
Canned evaporated milk.	1	14½	" " "
Canned jellied pork.		9	" " "
Canned pineapples.	1	0	Blown and damaged containers.
Canned apricots.	62	14	" or " "
			container lids damaged.
Canned condensed milk.	6	5½	Damaged and blown cans.
Canned beans in tomato sauce.	4	11	" " " "
Onions in vinegar.	1	6	Container caps holed: contents stale.
Canned stewed steak.		14½	Blown container.
Danish butter.	1	8	Black spot mould
Canned pork luncheon meat		12	Blown or damaged containers.
Canned ham.	21	12	Bone taint and decomposition.
Canned mince beef loaf.		12	Damaged can.
Canned bacon.	12	0	Bone taint and decomposition.

The carcasses and organs of 13 horses were inspected during the year.

2 livers, total weight 30 lbs. were surrendered due to infarcts.

1 pig carcase and organs were found to be unfit due to asphyxiation.

PEST CONTROL.

Dirty and Verminous Houses.

Infestations by insects were found in three dwelling houses within the District, and an infestation by cockroaches was found in a catering establishment. Two dirty houses, one of which was also infested by insects, were found, and informal action taken. In one case an improvement was effected, but in another case of an elderly woman living alone there appeared to be some doubt as to whether she was capable of keeping the premises clean; at one period the woman's sister cleaned the place, but it was allowed to revert to its original state very quickly.

Rats and Mice.

The period covered by this section of the report is from the 1st January, 1953 to 31st March, 1954.

The Rodent Operative was engaged throughout the period in dealing with surface infestations on the Council's undertakings, and on those owned by third parties.

The free service which was inaugurated during 1951 was continued. The fact that householders do not have to pay for the very few rats which are found as a rule on private property eliminates reluctance on the part of householders to report rats and mice when seen, and minor infestations can be dealt with before they grow.

As during last year the second maintenance treatment of the sewers was modified after consultation with Technical Officers of the Infestation Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

A summary of the work carried out is given below:-

Sewers.

The total number of manholes is 1,310.

First Treatment.

Number Treated.	Poison & bait base used.	Manholes showing take.
577	Sausage rusk & zinc phosphide.	68

Second Treatment.

Number Treated.	Poison & bait base used.	Manholes showing take.
184	Bread mash and arsenic.	56

Pest Control - continued

It is interesting to note that in the second modified treatment the number of "takes" was considerably reduced, and this, I think, shows that the infestations had been almost eliminated.

The table below gives details of surface rat infestations dealt with on private and Council owned properties.

<u>Type of Property.</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>inspected.</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>infestat-</u> <u>ions found.</u>	<u>Major.</u>	<u>Minor.</u>	<u>Treated.</u>
Sewage Works.	17	17	9	8	17
Refuse Tips.	16	14	12	2	14
Dwelling Houses.	228	194	135	59	180
Agricultural Properties.	28	17	12	5	13
Business Premises etc.	70	47	32	15	38
	359	289	200	89	262

16 infestations of mice on private property were also dealt with by the use of "warfarin".

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS, 1928 and 1936.

89 licences authorising the keeping of petrol, petroleum products and/or carbide of calcium were issued. These licenses authorised the storage of some 137,700 gallons of petrol, and 336 lbs. of carbide of calcium.

At the commencement of the year new conditions for attachment to licences were adopted, and now this District is in line with the more progressive Authorities throughout the Country.

A tendency was observed amongst people who handle petrol to treat it as a much less dangerous commodity than it really is, and the greatest difficulty has been experienced in inducing the owners of petrol pumps to display notices requesting customers to refrain from smoking, and to switch off the engine whilst their cars were being re-fuelled.

One garage was found to be keeping petrol for sale without any licence having been issued by the Council.

It cannot be emphasised too strongly that petrol is dangerous if not handled properly, and every effort will be continued to bring this fact home to storers. It was suggested, with good reason, that a fire in a barn, which caused some £2,000 damage, within the District was caused by the careless handling of petrol which was being kept without a licence having been issued or in compliance with the Petroleum Spirit (Motor Vehicles etc)., Regulations, 1929.

TABLE 14.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.Part 1 of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No. on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>No. of Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted.</u>
(1) Factories in which Secs.1, 2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	7	-	-
(2) Factories not incl. in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	127	103	23	-
(3) Other Premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl.out-worker's premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	137	110	23	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>No. of cases in which defects were found.</u>		<u>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u>
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)			
(a) Insufficient.	2	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	6	5	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not incl. offences relating to Outwork).	49	37	-
TOTAL:	57	42	-

Factories Act - continued

Visits to factories within the District were continued at a high level, and a considerable number of improvements, as set out, mainly of a minor nature, were effected.

The fullest co-operation was extended by factory managements to your Officers in the necessary inspections, and the suggestions made for the improvement to sanitary conveniences etc., were usually accepted without question, and the work quickly carried out.

One certificate setting out the adequacy of the fire escape arrangements was issued after thorough inspections and investigations had been made.

Outworkers.

There was an improvement in the notification of outworkers by the management of the factories in connection with which they were employed. Inspections were made when new lists were received, and many outworkers living outside the District were reported to the appropriate Officer in the District in which they lived.

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL.

DIVISION NO.1.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR 1953.

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10. Vaccination and Immunisation.
11. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.
12. Problem Families.
13. Ambulance Service.
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15. Medical Examinations.

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The Division consists of the following districts:-

	Ø \ <u>Population.</u>	<u>Area in Acres.</u>
Silsden Urban District	5,820	7,101
Earby Urban District	5,348	3,519
Barnoldswick Urban District	10,282	2,764
Skipton Urban District	13,210	4,211
Skipton Rural District	23,715	146,071

Ø (Registrar General's Preliminary Report on the 1951 Census).

Social conditions in this mixed urban and rural community have changed little during the year, and the recession in the textile trade which took place in 1951 has been halted. Farming, one of the most important occupations, had a fairly good year despite difficulties in gathering the hay crop and the shortage of farm labour.

Progress in housing has been made in all districts, but the high place of housing in the priorities of hygiene must not be forgotten, and there are still many dwellings in both town and country which are no longer fit for habitation by present day standards.

Without good housing, the health, happiness and integrity of family life can neither be achieved nor maintained.

2. DIVISIONAL STAFF - as at 31st December, 1953.

(a)	M. Hunter.	M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.	Divisional Medical Officer.
	C. Harris.	M.B., B.Ch.	Assistant County Medical Officer.
	R.R. Stoakley.	M.B., B.Ch.	Assistant County Medical Officer.
	A.B. Morrison.	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P).	Clinic doctors working on a sessional basis.
	G.D.G. Cameron.	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P).	
	P. Vieyra.	M.D., D.P.H.	

Divisional Staff - continued

(b) NURSING.

Divisional Superintendent Health Visitor	1
Health Visitors/School Nurses	10
Home Nurses	5
Home Nurse/Midwives	9
Home Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitors.	3
Midwives	2

(c) OTHER.

Ø Mental Health Social Worker	1
Home Teacher (Under Mental Deficiency Act)	1
Ø Venereal Diseases Social Worker	1
Ø Speech Therapist	1

Ø (Part time in No. 1. Division).

(d) DAY NURSERY STAFF.

Matron	1
Deputy Matrons	2
Nursery Assistants	10
Nursery Students	-
Cooks and Domestics	7

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLERICAL.

Administrative (Chief Clerk)	1
Clerical	6

(f) HOME HELPS.

Full-time	14
Part-time	19

(g) OTHER DOMESTIC STAFF.

Part-time	<u>3</u>
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Total:

97

Through the spring and summer months there was a shortage of staff in the Division, and difficulty was experienced in meeting all the calls made on the midwives and home nurses. Fortunately, it occurred at that time when pressure of work is usually somewhat reduced, and a full staff was available by the autumn.

HEALTH CENTRES.

Very little progress has been made with the provision of health centres which were to play such an important part in the National Health Service. It is a matter of economics, although well recognised that their provision would greatly help the integration of the three main branches of the Health Service, and improve the co-operation which is so obviously lacking at present, and which shows few signs of improving.

In this Division continued use has had to be made of buildings which are unsuitable for clinic purposes. Although much good work has been done, as can be seen from examination of the records of attendance, the use of rented premises makes for a wastage of time and effort when compared with the facilities which are available in a properly organised clinic.

The following figures show that the Local Health Authorities receive a very small proportion of the enormous sum of money which is now being spent on the National Health Service, and this handicap should be appreciated.

Analysis of the Gross and Net Cost of the National Health Service 1951-53. (England and Wales).

<u>Branch of Service.</u>		1951/52 (<u>Actual</u> <u>Expenditure</u>). £	1952/53 (<u>Estimated</u> <u>Expenditure</u>). £
1.	Hospital Running Costs	228,919,019	255,983,000
2.	Hospital Capital Expenditure ...	10,817,750	9,250,100
3.	Other Hospital Services	4,932,127	5,475,200
4.	General Medical Services	42,122,554	77,569,000
5.	Pharmaceutical Services	45,329,936	35,650,000
6.	General Dental Services	31,434,071	17,950,000
7.	Supplementary Ophthalmic Services	8,483,145	5,750,000
8.	50 per cent Grants to Local Health Authorities ...	16,886,033	19,418,000
9.	All other expenditure ø	21,777,797	31,974,200
10.	Gross Total:	410,702,432	459,019,500
11.	Receipts applied towards expenditure +	62,244,700	69,136,000
12.	Net Total:	348,457,732	389,883,500

ø Including Civil Defence £930,456 for 1951/52; £9,041,200 for 1952/53.

+ Including Civil Defence £890,000 for 1952/53.

It has been suggested that re-organisation of local government and the transfer of the administration of all local medical services to local authorities would provide an admirable and lasting solution of the many difficulties which have arisen before and after the National Health Service Act, 1946. The Service cannot be allowed to collapse so may well have to be re-organised before it prices itself out of existence.

4. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

(a) BIRTHS:

Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 203.

Return of births notified in the Divisional Area during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1953.

Details.	Domiciliary		Institutional		Total.
	Live.	Still.	Live.	Still.	
(a) Primary Notifications					
(i) Urban Districts	97	2	307	8	414
(ii) Rural Districts	52	1	254	1	308
(b) Add Inward Transfers:	-	-	205	2	207
(c) Total Notifications received:	149	3	766	11	929
(d) Deduct Outward Transfers	1	-	75	-	76
(e) Total adjusted births	148	3	691	11	853

Analysis of Institutional Births.

Born in (a) Hospitals:

652 10

(b) Maternity Homes:

36 1

(c) Nursing Homes:

3 -

Total:

691 11

(b) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Name and address of Ante-Natal Clinic (whether held at Infant Welfare Centre or other premises)	No. of sessions now held per mth.			Number of women in attendance		Total number of attendances made by women during year		
	Combined with I.W.	Doctors.	Midwives only.	No. of women who attended during year	No. of new cases incl. in Col. 5.	Combined with I.W.	Doctors	Midwives only.
Barnoldswick Methodist Hall	-	4	-	111	82	-	459	-
Earby Old Grammar School	-	2	-	77	54	-	341	-
Glusburn Ebenezer Sunday School	-	2	-	36	27	-	213	-
Grassington Church House	-	1	-	16	11	-	61	-
TOTALS:	-	9	-	240	174	-	1074	-

(c) INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Name and Address of Centre	Number of Infant Welfare Sessions now held per month	Number of children who first attended a centre of this Local Authority during the year, and who at their first attendance were under 1 yr. of age.	Number of children who attended during the year and who were born in:			Total Number of children who attended during the yr.	No. of attendances during the yr. made by children who at the date of attendance were:			Total attendances during the yr.
			1953	1952	1951-48		Under 1 yr.	1 but under 2	2 but under 5	
Barnoldswick Methodist Hall	8	134	119	110	169	398	2277	563	678	3518
Earby Old Grammar School	4	77	66	43	37	146	1198	257	117	1572
Gargrave Institute	2	19	17	22	36	75	285	170	250	705
Glusburn Ebenezzer Sunday Schl.	4	77	70	65	49	184	1181	233	229	1643
Grassington Church House	2	29	25	12	43	80	274	105	179	558
Silsden Kirkgate Sunday Schl.	4	62	60	52	71	183	627	227	188	1042
Skipton Millfields Hall	12	138	131	112	227	470	2693	1214	890	4797
TOTALS:	36	536	488	416	632	1536	8535	2769	2531	13835

MOBILE CLINICS:

Name and Address of Centre	No. of Infant Welfare Sessions now held per mth.	No. of children who first attended a centre of this Local Authority during the year, and who at their first attendance were under 1 yr. of age.	No. of children who attended during the year and who were born in:	Total No. of children who attended during the yr.	No. of attendances during the yr. made by children who at the date of attendance were:	Total attendances during the yr.
			1953	1952	1951-48	
Addingham	2	11	10	3	18	31
			91	21	30	142
Carleton	2	16	15	12	9	36
			18	12	14	44
Cononley	2	10	6	8	6	20
			86	48	50	184
Cowling	2	11	15	14	20	49
			113	55	52	220
Lothersdale	2	5	3	4	6	13
			40	22	25	87
TOTALS:	10	53	49	41	59	149
			348	153	171	677

(a) BIRTHS:

The total number of domiciliary confinements was 151 compared with 702 confinements in hospital, giving a percentage of 21% compared with a national figure of 38% in 1952 (the latest available figures).

There are now so many maternity beds available in the area that applications very rarely have to be refused: certainly none from the priority groups.

(b) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS:

Attendances at the existing ante-natal clinics continued at a satisfactory level. At these clinics all patients have blood taken for Rhesus and Kahn testing, and haemoglobin estimation. Weighing, urine testing and blood pressure readings are carried out at every visit. Furthermore, patients are encouraged to discuss health matters and preparations for the confinement with the doctor, health visitor and midwife, and to attend the relaxation exercise classes which are provided at two clinics.

(c) CHILD WELFARE CENTRES:

Details of centres and attendances are given in table form. In addition, a mobile centre consisting of a large and well equipped caravan towed by a Land Rover has been operating in the Division on two days in each fortnight since June. This mobile centre provides clinic facilities for mothers and children living in less accessible places who would otherwise find it difficult or impossible to obtain them.

Up to the present it has provided a service in Lothersdale, Cononley, Cowling, Carleton and Addingham, and the attendances have been satisfactory.

(d) ANTE-NATAL HOSTEL.

The County Council has provided a hostel at Brighouse for patients requiring rest rather than special forms of treatment, but residence therein, unlike the hospitals, is not free of cost. This factor, combined with the distance from many patients homes, and the disinclination to leave their families, has resulted in a lack of demand for accommodation. and the hostel was closed at the end of the year.

(e) DENTAL CARE.

There is one dental clinic in this Division at Barnoldswick. During the year additional staff became available, and it was possible to offer free dental treatment to expectant and nursing mothers. In other parts of the Division the arrangement whereby local dental practitioners provide treatment under the County Council's scheme has continued.

(f) CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

A premature infant is defined as one weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth, irrespective of the period of gestation. When such infants are born at home, special equipment, kept within the Division, is available on the midwife's request.

(g) DAY NURSERIES.

Children of the following categories within the age range 0-5 years are eligible for admission to day nurseries:-

- (i) The young child whose mother is ill or having a baby.
- (ii) The illegitimate child whose mother is seeking work.
- (iii) Children of parents who cannot find suitable homes or are living in overcrowded and/or insanitary dwellings.
- (iv) The young child of a widow who must educate and support her family unassisted, and also the young child of the mother whose husband is ill.
- (v) The child whose mother is engaged in the textile or other export industry.
- (vi) The child whose mother is engaged in the armament industry.
- (vii) Other reasons.

The Earby Day Nursery with forty places has been open throughout the year, and although the demand for accommodation has not been heavy it has been sufficient to maintain a full register.

The Barnoldswick Day Nursery was, after much delay in construction, opened in September. It is an excellent building, and provides accommodation for fifty babies and young children.

Both day nurseries are under medical supervision, the children being examined on admission, and periodically thereafter.

There are no residential nurseries within the Division.

(h) CHILDRENS' HOMES.

There are two homes in Skipton, Burnside House and Aireview House. The latter was re-opened during the year to meet a further demand for this type of accommodation in the County. Although administered by the Welfare Department, all children are examined by the Health Department Staff on admission, and periodically during their stay.

(i) CARE OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND CHILD.

The care of the unmarried mother and her child continues to present many problems, and the health services can meet only part of the needs of these women. Satisfactory arrangements can usually be made, when required, for admission to a hostel or home, for confinement there, and for a stay of some length afterwards. The County Council provides financial assistance in such cases. But the problems of social and moral rehabilitation which arise are often very difficult to solve, and require the co-operation of voluntary and denominational bodies which are active in this field, and of other departments of the local authority.

continued -

The Organising Secretary of the Bradford Diocesan Moral Welfare Council has, as in past years, been especially helpful.

(j) MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Two whole-time midwives have been employed, and eight home nurses also undertake midwifery. This system of combined duties has been found to be the most practicable in rural areas. These ten members of the staff are trained to give gas and air analgesia during childbirth.

The number of midwives employed in hospitals in the Division on 31st December, 1953 was eleven.

STATISTICS.

Number of confinements in the Divisional area attended by midwives:-

	Institutional Total No. of cases.	Domiciliary Cases.				Total
		Dr. not present at time of delivery of child.	Dr. not booked. Dr. not present at time of deliv- ery.	Dr. booked. Dr. present at time of delivery (either booked Dr. or Another).	Dr. not present at time of dly. of child.	
Midwives employed by the Authority	-	3	24	39	88	154
Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees.	570	-	-	-	-	570
Midwives in Private Practice:						
(a) Nursing Homes.	-	-	-	-	-	
(b) Others.	-	-	-	-	-	
Totals:	570	3	24	39	88	724

No. of cases delivered in institutions but attended
by domiciliary midwives on discharge from institutions
before the 14th day 31.

Breast Feeding.

No. of domiciliary cases in which infant was wholly breast

MEDICAL AID NOTICES.

Summary of notices issued by midwives requesting the services of a doctor, as prescribed in the rules of the Central Midwives Board:-

In respect of -

(i)	Pregnancy.	3
(ii)	Labour.	35
(iii)	Lying-in period.	5
(iv)	The child.	5

6. HOME NURSING.

Five whole-time nurses, and eight nurses who combine home nursing with midwifery have been employed to care for patients in their own homes. Their work is of great value, and very much appreciated, particularly by the elderly and long term sick. The type of work and the amount vary considerably, depending to a large extent on the availability of hospital beds and out-patient treatment facilities.

A summary of the work done by the home nurses is as follows:-

(i)	Number of visits paid by home nurses during the year:	33,375
(ii)	Number of cases attended by home nurses during the year (excluding midwifery and maternity cases):	2,163

7. HEALTH VISITING.

Health visitors (who are also qualified nurses and midwives) are provided for home visiting, for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from illness and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection. In this Division, they are also employed as school nurses, and tuberculosis health visitors so that each has an area (usually with a clinic as well) in which she can employ her knowledge and skill in a wide variety of circumstances, and make an important contribution towards improving the health of the community. The most valuable part of this work is done in the homes where individual health teaching is given and families helped with their many problems.

Essentially a field worker, the health visitor can assist the family doctor in the care of the mother and child, particularly where there are feeding difficulties: and help him to supervise the welfare of the aged, the disabled and the tuberculous in their own homes. This association is developing very slowly despite its obvious value, and the possibility which it holds out of reducing the high cost of the medical services, apart from the alleviation of suffering.

STATISTICS:

Number of visits paid by health visitors during the year in addition to their attendance at clinics and welfare centres:-

continued -

	<u>First Visits.</u>	<u>Total Visits.</u>
(i) Expectant Mothers	129	371
(ii) Children under 1 year of age	826	5,328
(iii) Children between 1 and 5 years	-	8,707
(iv) In respect of Tuberculosis	-	1,259
(v) Other cases	-	1,801
Total:	<u>955</u>	<u>17,466</u>

8. HOME HELP SERVICE.

This service, although not free of charge, is now accepted as an important contribution to the stability of the household in sickness, disability or during childbirth, when the home help is engaged to take over the work of the household, and to turn her hand to anything which normally falls to the lot of a housewife, including cooking, cleaning, and the care of children. During the year the establishment of home helps has been twenty two, or the equivalent in part-time workers, and the following table shows the types of case and time devoted to them.

During most weeks between seventy and eighty individuals or families have received either part-time or whole-time help, which makes a heavy demand on the clerical and administrative staff of the Divisional Health Office.

Cases provided with home helps during the year come within the following classifications:-

	<u>No. of cases.</u>	<u>Hours employed</u>
(i) Maternity (including expectant mothers) .	86.	7,304
(ii) Tuberculosis	3	889
(iii) Chronic sick, including aged and infirm	197	33,320
(iv) Others	<u>8</u>	<u>3,312</u>
Total:	<u>294</u>	<u>44,825</u>

9. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

The functions of the Local Health Authority under existing legislation are as follows:-

- (a) The appointment of duly authorised officers to take initial proceedings for removal to hospital of persons who are to be dealt with under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.
- (b) The duty under the Mental Deficiency Acts 1913 - 18 of ascertaining what persons in the area are defectives; providing suitable supervision for them, guardianship, or institutional care; and making arrangements for the provision of suitable training or occupation for defectives not in institutions.
- (c) The duty to make arrangements for the care and after-care of persons suffering from mental illness or mental defectiveness, so far as provision is not otherwise made.
- (d) The provision of an ambulance service for the purpose of the mental health service.

Under the terms of paragraph (a) the Duly Authorised Officer has dealt with the following cases during the year:-

(i)	Number of cases certified under Section 16 of the Lunacy Act, 1890.	21
(ii)	Number of cases dealt with under Section 20.	-
(iii)	Number of cases dealt with under Section 21.	-
(iv)	Number of cases in which authorised officers have assisted in obtaining admission under Section 1. of the Mental Treatment Act.	1
(v)	Cases dealt with under Section 5 of the Mental Treatment Act.	-
(vi)	Any other cases referred to the authorised officer for action, but where it was not found necessary to proceed under the Lunacy or Mental Treatment Acts.	3

The mental health social worker visits mental defectives in Divisions 1 and 2 who are cared for by their parents or relatives, or who are working under supervision in various occupations. She also provides reports on patients on licence from hospitals, and keeps the Divisional Medical Officer informed of the welfare of all the defectives in his area.

A home teacher visits a few defectives in their own homes, and operates a group training centre in Skipton on three days each week, for children who can travel thereto. There are twelve children on the register of this centre, which provides both training and occupation, and a respite for their often harassed parents. Dinners are supplied through the school meals service, and travel warrants provided for defectives and their escorts. It is a service which is little known, but greatly appreciated.

continued -

The shortage of institutional accommodation for mental defectives is still a great problem, for according to the Ministry of Health there were, at the beginning of 1953, 3,527 urgent and 5,461 non-urgent cases awaiting admission.

With regard to persons suffering from mental illness, their care and after care are still unsatisfactory, for there is a lack of liaison between the mental hospitals, their out-patient clinics, and the local health authority; whilst the Duly Authorised Officer has no special training, and is not wholly employed in this type of work. The mentally sick are often only too well aware of the stigma which has for centuries been attached to their form of illness, and which is so slow in disappearing. The psychiatric social workers are few, so there is rarely anyone outside the family circle to whom mentally sick persons can turn or discuss their troubles without constraint. As mental illness is an increasing national problem, the need for a trained person to provide the liaison and after care which is now lacking becomes more and more obvious.

It may be of interest to the reader of this report to know that according to the Ministry of Health's most recent figures, nearly 150,000 cases of mental illness are in hospital, many in overcrowded mental hospitals: and nearly 60,000 mental defectives are in care, with the huge waiting list already quoted.

STATISTICS:

Particulars of mental defectives in the Division as on 1st January, 1953.

No. of ascertained mental defectives found to be "subject to be dealt with".

	Male.	Female.	Total.
(a) On licence from institutions	1	-	1
(b) Under guardianship (incl. cases on licence therefrom)	-	-	-
(c) Under Statutory Supervision (excl. cases on licence)	32	19	51
No. of cases incl. in (b) and (c) above awaiting removal to an institution	3	1	4
No. of mental defectives not at present "subject to be dealt with" but over whom some form of voluntary supervision is maintained:	9	3	12
No. of mental defectives receiving training:			
(a) In Occupation Centres:	4	4	8
(b) At home.	2	3	5

10. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Under the National Health Service Act the Local Health Authority has a statutory duty to make arrangements for persons in its area to be vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria.

Vaccination and immunisation are, therefore, offered to the parents of all babies, and if desired are carried out by the family doctor or at any child welfare centre. Immunisation is again offered when the child reaches school age.

Both these procedures are voluntary, and without charge. These factors, along with the greatly reduced incidence of both diphtheria and smallpox, are giving parents a false sense of security. This falsity was only too apparent during 1953., when there were thirty nine cases of smallpox with seven deaths in West Yorkshire and the adjacent part of Lancashire. This outbreak resulted in an increased number of vaccinations during the year, but the figures for both vaccination and immunisation are still unsatisfactory.

Vaccination against whooping cough was introduced in 1952., and consists of three injections given at monthly intervals which, should it not fully protect the child, will modify the course of the disease. The response has been encouraging, for parents appreciate that whooping cough is frequently a distressing, and often a serious disease.

STATISTICS:

(a) Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated during Period:-

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	15 yrs. or over.	Total.
Number vaccinated	108	167	218	899	1010	2402
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	13	270	986	1269

(b) Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation against diphtheria during the year.

Age at date of final injection		
Under 5.	5 to 14.	Total.
404	104	508

(c) Number of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection (i.e., subsequent to complete full course) during the year... 641.

STATISTICS:

(d) Number of children who completed a full course of immunisation against whooping cough during the year:-

Age at 31.12.53. i.e. born in year.	Under 1 1953	1 1952	2 1951	3 1950	4 1949	5 1948	Total.
Number immunised.	37	178	46	25	16	5	307

11. CARE AND AFTER-CARE SERVICE.

This responsibility of the Local Health Authority covers a very wide field, and in a short report such as this reference can only be made to certain aspects. One of these is the provision of sick room requisites which home nurses issue on loan to appropriate cases. In addition, crutches, spinal beds and invalid chairs may be provided; convalescent home treatment, and extra milk for certain cases of tuberculosis.

The prevention of illness raises the question of health education. It is a difficult problem as no legislation, rules or regulations can make up for the lack of interest in health on the part of the public. It is neither easy to get the message of health across, nor to measure success achieved in this direction. The Press and Radio are helpful, so are leaflets and posters. But the personal approach by professional health workers is undoubtedly the best, and has achieved much. Far more could be done if additional staff were available for this field work, and to give lectures and demonstrations to many types of audience.

The education of expectant and nursing mothers is, however, a matter to which close attention can be given at home visits and clinics. The health visitors can also assist in the prevention of tuberculosis, for we have a close liaison with the Chest Physician through their attendance at his clinics, and by means of monthly case conferences and discussions.

It has become the custom to refer to the care of the elderly in this section. In 1901 the number of people aged 65 and over in England and Wales was one-and-half million or 4.7 per cent. In 1951 it was 10.9 per cent, and by 1977 is likely to be over seven millions, about 16 per cent. In addition, the number of younger people is decreasing. By helping to increase the expectation of life, medical science has created a problem which must be solved against a social background which is changing, and in which there is a tendency to regard it as a community or national responsibility rather than a family matter. The vast majority of old people want to live at home, and manage surprisingly well with the assistance of relatives, home nurses and home helps, and kindly neighbours. But if they become ill or their condition deteriorates, it is usually impossible to find a hospital bed for them immediately, and things become very difficult. Furthermore, the present organisation of the home help service is not designed to cover these cases satisfactorily.

For those who are too frail to manage in their own homes, even with assistance, hostels are necessary. There are insufficient hostels, and they have neither the facilities nor staff to deal with a degree of disability or temporary illness, which, in many cases should not demand admission to hospital.

continued -

In some places there are "half-way houses" to meet the needs of this type of case, but as there are none here, there is an obvious need for the Local Health Authority and Regional Hospital Board to meet and provide a solution.

The problem of accommodation for the old person whose mental faculties are failing, but is not in need of medical or surgical treatment in a hospital, also needs solving by joint consultation of the same authorities.

12. PROBLEM FAMILIES.

The presence in the community of a subnormal or problem group has long been recognised, and although the numbers in this group are much fewer than they were at the turn of the century, a sharper emphasis has been placed on their presence by the improvements which have taken place in the standards of parentcraft and the physical environment of the bulk of the population.

These problem families are, generally speaking, shiftless, lazy, backward, and incorrigibly ineducable; and they present a continuous problem to the medico-social worker. Their names appear with monotonous regularity at the divisional conferences which are arranged periodically to discuss the neglect and ill-treatment of children in their own homes. These conferences are valuable in so far as they enable the efforts of the various social workers to be co-ordinated, but there is no doubt that the most effective method of treating the problem family lies in the employment of Family Service Units sponsored by the Society of Friends, which are now rendering truly practical assistance in some large towns.

This Society has recently established the Spofforth Hall Recuperative Centre to which mothers (and their children) are sent who fail to provide a satisfactory home for themselves and their families. At this Centre near Wetherby, education and rehabilitation have been provided for a small number of families with most encouraging results.

13. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

With the exception of the Grassington ambulance which is operated by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade under agency arrangements in Upper Wharfedale, all vehicles are now under the direct control of the County Council. The new depot in Barnoldswick serves the West Craven area; Silsden and adjacent parishes are served from Keighley; Addingham and Beamsley from Guiseley, and the remainder of the Division from the Skipton depot.

Judging from comment and the absence of complaint, it is assumed that these arrangements are providing a satisfactory service.

STATISTICS:

	1953.
Mileage covered:	123,442.
Patients carried:	16,227.

14. THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

The following statistics, kindly supplied by the Divisional Education Officer, relate to one day in mid-October, 1953., and may be of interest to the reader of this Report.

(i)	No. of children attending school on that day ...	7,229.
(ii)	No. of schools	55.
(iii)	No. taking school dinners	4,444.
(iv)	No. receiving mid-morning milk	5,500.
(v)	No. eligible for free dinners	222.

The Health Department has many responsibilities in this great service, to which some reference is appropriate. The basis is the examination of each child on at least three occasions during school life, along with special examinations of those children who require particular observation or care, and the provision of guidance to the Youth Employment Officer when the time comes for pupils to leave school.

That the service is appreciated is obvious from the number of parents who take the trouble to attend these examinations. Whilst they rely on the family doctor for treatment, they value the opportunity of discussing with the school doctor the health of their children as opposed to their diseases.

It will be noted in Table (c) that the general condition of the pupils is mainly very satisfactory. Their height and weights continue to increase, and from statistics collected elsewhere it appears that average children to-day are about three inches taller and eight pounds heavier than children of corresponding age living thirty years and more ago. These increases, relatively greater for the poorer than for the wealthier, have been scarcely affected by the recent War, and they continue.

TABLE 1.

(a) PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of inspections in the prescribed groups:-

Entrants	897
7 to 8 year group... ..	-
Last year primary... ..	717
First year secondary	149
Last year secondary	<u>419</u>

Total: 2,182

(b) OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections... ..	459
Number of Re-inspections	<u>498</u>

Total: 957

continued -

(c) PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

Group.	Defective vision(excl. squint).	For any of other conditions recorded in Table 11A.	Total individual pupils.
Entrants	14	174	164
7 to 8 year group	-	-	-
Last year primary	99	128	208
First year secondary	8	36	40
Last year secondary	36	63	91
Total:	157	401	503

(d) CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF ALL PUPILS GIVEN A ROUTINE EXAMINATION.

Age Groups.	No. of pupils inspected.	A. (Good). No. % of Col.2.	B. (Fair) No. % of Col.2.	C. (Poor). No. % of Col.2.
Entrants	897	533 59.42%	342 38.13%	22 2.45%
7 to 8 year group	-	-	-	-
Last year primary	717	468 65%	249 35%	-
First year secondary	149	98 65.8%	50 33.5%	1 0.7%
Last year secondary	419	297 71%	122 29%	-
Total:	2,182	1,396 64%	763 34.9%	23 1.1%

TABLE LI.

(e) RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

All defects noted at medical inspection as requiring treatment are included in this return, whether or not this treatment was begun before the date of the inspection.

Defect or Disease.	Periodic Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
	No. of Defects.	No. of Defects.	No. of Defects.	No. of Defects.
	Requir- ing treat- ment.	Requir- ing observat- ion but not treat- ment.	Requir- ing treat- ment.	Requir- ing observat- ion but not treat- ment.
Skin	35	21	6	1
Eyes: (a) Vision	157	117	32	36
(b) Squint	24	11	10	4
(c) Other	11	6	1	1
Ears: (a) Hearing	8	13	6	4
(b) Otitis Media	13	17	1	-
(c) Other	2	5	1	-
Nose or Throat	61	192	14	40
Speech	5	10	10	6
Cervical Glands	17	86	8	11
Heart and Circulation	5	87	1	17
Lungs	16	67	3	16
Developmental:				
(a) Hernia	3	18	1	2
(b) Other	5	164	2	7
Orthopaedic:				
(a) Posture	30	22	10	3
(b) Flat Feet	83	31	25	4
(c) Other	40	58	17	3
Nervous System:				
(a) Epilepsy	4	2	3	-
(b) Other	2	7	1	5
Psychological:				
(a) Development	3	6	5	8
(b) Stability	6	23	3	6
Other	34	17	17	11
TOTAL:	564	980	177	185

(f) CLINIC ARRANGEMENTS.

School Clinics are held in Skipton, Silsden and Barnoldswick where children requiring observation can be seen regularly, and given treatment when appropriate.

In addition, there are specialist clinics for Orthopaedic, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye defects: speech therapy clinics in Skipton and Barnoldswick: and a Child Guidance Clinic.

(g) HANDICAPPED PUPILS.

A register is maintained of all pupils who, owing to some mental or physical disability, require special educational treatment. At the end of the year 65 pupils were included; the division into the various categories being as follows:-

Blind	3	Partially Deaf	3	Physically Handicapped	18
Partially sighted	2	Maladjusted	3	Educationally	
Deaf	6	Delicate	7	Subnormal	23

Total: 65

The number of pupils who were attending special schools at the end of the year was 25., the details being as follows:-

Schools for the Blind	2	Schools for Maladjusted	3
Schools for Partially sighted	2	Schools for Delicate	2
Schools for the Deaf	5	Schools for Physically	
Schools for Partially Deaf	1	Handicapped	4
		Schools for Educationally	
		Subnormal	6

Total: 25

(h) PUPILS UNDER OBSERVATION.

In addition to the pupils classified as handicapped under the Education Act, 1944., 78 children with defects of a less serious or temporary nature were under observation at the end of the year.

(i) NETHERSIDE HALL.

This residential school near Grassington has been provided for the education of delicate boys whose homes are within the West Riding. Their medical supervision is the responsibility of the staff of the department.

(j) DENTAL SERVICE.

The following statistics have been provided by Mr. O.A. Long, Senior Dental Officer, appertaining to the work within the Division:-

continued -

Number of children inspected	2,715
" " " found to require treatment	2,173
" " " offered treatment	1,857
" " " treated	1,482
" " Attendances	2,826
" " Extractions:	
(a) temporary	1,683
(b) Permanent	251
" " General anaesthetics:	9
" " Fillings:	
(a) temporary	625
(b) permanent	1,919
" " Other treatments:	
(a) temporary	270
(b) permanent	864

15. MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Particulars of medical examinations carried out by the Divisional Medical Staff are listed below:-

Entry to County Superannuation Scheme:	66
Teachers and entrants to training colleges:....	18
Fitness for work:	7

In addition, certain examinations were carried out under the Children Act, 1948., the Mental Deficiency Acts, and the Education Act, 1944.

